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LAFAYETTE VISTAS

New Creeks Committee Shapes Action Plan

Carl Piercy, a retired chemical engineer and long-time Lafayette resident, is passionate about our City's creeks. His professional background and enthusiasm for enhancing the City's quality of life made him the ideal candidate to fill the role of Chair of the City Council's recently created Creeks Committee. The Council appointed six other Commissioners, each of whom share the vision of ecologically healthy, beautiful, and well maintained creeks in Lafayette, and bring a wealth of diverse professional expertise to the Committee.

CREEKS COMMITTEE MISSION

The mission of the Creeks Committee is to promote the improvement of the ecological health, beautification, and maintenance of Lafayette's creeks.

Lafayette Creek System

(see map inside)

There are more than 16 miles of creeks within Lafayette City limits, although much of the creek system is impossible to see. Some of it runs underground, some is screened from view by debris and tangled bank overgrowth, and most is located on private property.

Action Plan

In formulating a plan of action, the Creeks Committee has been making valuable contacts with other Bay Area creek organizations. The Committee has set the goals of developing a comprehensive inventory of creek conditions, working towards the long range restoration of aquarian habitat, improving public access, and beautifying the public portion of the creeks through cleanup and maintenance projects. The Committee will also assist the City's Engineering Department to provide education to residents regarding water pollution, bank stabilization, and maintenance of the private creeks.

Off To A Quick Start

Although the Creeks Committee has only been meeting since March, it has already made significant progress through work on two cleanup and beautification projects. On August 22, cleanup of approximately 300' of Lafayette Creek took place in conjunction with Boy Scout Troop 224 (see accompanying story). A similar project involving Las Trampas Creek from Moraga Blvd. to the Gazebo is planned for October.

Come One And All!

The Creeks Committee meets at the City Offices from 7:00 – 9:00 pm on the first Monday of the month, and the public is welcome to attend. The Committee encourages the public to submit maintenance and improvement ideas for the public portion of the creeks and to volunteer for a creek project.

Reminder: Now is the time for residents to clean up private creeks and drainage ditches. Consider holding a "Neighborhood Creek Day" to make sure you and your neighborhood are prepared for runoff from winter storms.

Eagle Scout Project Benefits Lafayette Creek

Thanks to Matt Greene, a Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 224, a section of the overgrown and almost invisible Lafayette Creek is emerging as a valuable asset for the City and its residents. Matt headed a contingent of approximately 35 young people and 5 dads who spent all day Saturday, August 22 cleaning up a 300 foot length of the creek and its banks along Mt. Diablo Blvd., across from the Hillside Motel. The community project was one of the final requirements the 17-year old De La Salle High School junior had to complete to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

When Matt first suggested a plan to spruce up Lafayette Creek, the new Creeks Committee gave its whole-hearted support. He then met on-site with Committee Chair Carl Piercy and City Engineering Technician Rick Grimes, to get the information he needed to complete a detailed work plan.

Coordination was one of the key tasks Matt focused on prior to the big day. He organized and directed the efforts of Troop 224, members of Walnut Creek's United Methodist Church and Youth Fellowship Group, and other community volunteers. He arranged that sufficient equipment, including gas-powered weed wackers, machetes, clippers and rakes, would be on hand to get

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Eagle Scout (continued from front page)

the job done. Matt also worked with local businesses that contributed to the project. Special thanks go to UCB for the use of its office facilities, and to Diablo Foods, Roundtable Pizza, Subway, and TOGOS of Lafayette for the sodas, snacks, and lunches that they provided for the workers.

The designated work day dawned hot and sunny, but an early morning start and lots of enthusiasm prevailed as natural debris, bottles, and trash including a water heater and truck tire were retrieved and hauled away by City trucks. The Creeks Committee judged the day's results remarkable and expressed hope that the change in appearance would serve as impetus and motivation for similar creek beautification projects in the future.

Creeks Committee

Creek Committee Members

Chair, Carl Piercy, Retired Chemical Engineer
Vice-Chair, John Forst, Hazardous Materials Specialist
Leslie Dumas, Hydrologist
Shel Lewis, Retired Research Chemist
Ron Light, Retired Orthodontist
Bill Robbins, Civil Engineer, Salesman
William Rudolph, Geotechnical Engineer

LAFAYETTE JOINS "SPARE THE AIR" CAMPAIGN

The San Francisco Bay Area has experienced dramatic improvements in its air quality over the last 40 years, thanks to the efforts of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), diligent residents, and businesses.

The Lamorinda School Bus program, for example, helps reduce pollution by cutting the number of private vehicle trips from Lamorinda households to area schools by 1,040 each school day. In addition, the program uses a few natural gas powered busses that burn "clean" to further reduce air pollution. Plans for a natural gas refueling site that are on the drawing board will allow the school bus program to use even more natural gas powered buses in the future.

Of course, there is still room for improvement when it comes to air quality. In June, Lafayette joined the "1998 Spare the Air Cities" campaign, made up of more than 500 public and private employers and organizations in the nine Bay Area counties. Campaign members pledge to make the Bay Area's air healthier to breathe and to maintain the national ozone standards.

Reducing Air Pollution

Air pollution in the Bay Area resulting from household activities and products adds up to more than 50 tons of smog per day! These include:

- **household spray products – 43 tons**
  hair spray alone contributes 8 tons; using non-aerosol or alternative products will have a big impact!
- **lawn/garden equipment – 4.5 tons**
  a gas-powered lawn mower can pollute as much in one hour as a car driven 50 miles; try reducing or eliminating lawn areas.
- **gardening – 1.6 tons**
  most spray pesticides have compounds that add to smog formation; ask your nursery for pesticide-free gardening tips.
- **paint – 1.5 tons**
  oil-based paints and varnishes contain a high percentage of solvents that evaporate into the atmosphere; use water-based or alternative products.
- **lighter fluid – 0.5 tons**
  barbecues are okay; just use an electric or chimney briquette starter to get a fire going.

Additional tips to reduce household pollution include:

- minimize wood smoke pollution from your fireplace or woodstove by using manufactured logs which burn cleaner than wood logs,
- don't burn garbage, glossy paper, or wood that has been painted or chemically treated,
- "trip-link" errands to avoid excessive cold starts of your car; an engine that's been sitting for an hour pollutes five times as much as a restarted warm engine,
- avoid refueling cars in mid to late afternoon when ozone levels are highest; topping off a fuel tank is never a good idea.

For daily BAAQMD air quality forecasts and other Spare the Air information, call 1-800-HELP-Air. Or, register to receive Spare the Air notices by e-mail on the BAAQMD web page, www.sparetheair.org.

Sesquicentennial Events A Big Draw at Art & Wine Festival

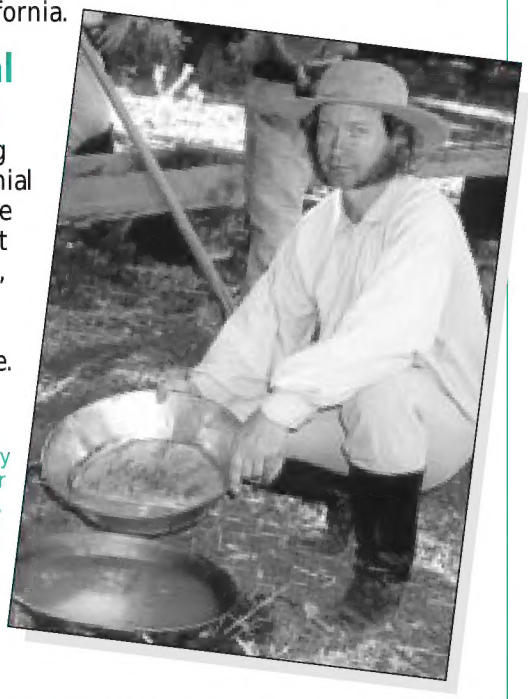
Lafayette's 3rd Annual Art & Wine Festival was the place to be on September 19th and 20th. The Chamber of Commerce and Sesquicentennial Committee did an outstanding job in attracting residents, as well as people from all over Northern California, to enjoy the educational, tasty, and fun events.

In addition to displays of arts and wine tasting, this year's Festival featured a wide range of Gold Rush and circa 1850s activities. From the Sesquicentennial Parade and Pancake Breakfast to the weekend-long Sarsaparilla and Penny Candy Store – from the guided Cemetery Tour to the Gold Rush and Covered Wagon Encampments – and from the Theater of the Gold Rush to the period music provided by the Bangors & Mash Band and danced by the Period Events and Entertainment Recreation Society – an exciting time was had by all. The weekend was wrapped up with a production of O Freedom!, a musical storytelling of the life of Mary Ellen Pleasant, the mother of the civil rights movement in California.

L to R: Christy Boyd, Lauren Ebe, Samantha Spieges, and Alex Kostka (kneeling) from Lafayette Girl Scout Troop #1647, served customers at the Sarsaparilla and Penny Candy Store.

Sesquicentennial Items For Sale

Items commemorating Lafayette's Sesquicentennial can be purchased at the Lafayette Book Store at 3579 Mt. Diablo Blvd., the Lafayette Library, or the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.



Larry Baumgardner of San Jose, demonstrated gold panning techniques at the Gold Rush Encampment.

Home Site of Miss Jennie To Be Honored

The redwood tree in Diablo Foods' parking lot is about to get a lot of attention! At 10:00 am on October 17th the Lafayette Historical Society will honor Jennie Bickerstaff, one of the pioneers of Contra Costa County, with a plaque and monument at the site of her lifelong home.

In 1879, James Bickerstaff built a house where Diablo Foods now stands, and his daughter, Jennie, planted a number of redwood trees in the front garden. Lafayette's founder, Elam Brown, was a friend of the Bickerstaff family, and Jennie's life spanned exciting times in Lafayette's history, until her death in 1966 at the age of 93.

Miss Jennie was first and foremost a teacher. Her career started in Moraga in 1892 where she taught 34 pupils from first through ninth grades, and was paid $60 a month. Jennie devoted her life to the school children of Contra Costa County, including Orinda, Lafayette, Pacheco, Saranap and Walnut Creek, until she retired in 1936. "To be able to teach little folks, that's something," she said in an interview before her 90th birthday, in 1963.

Lafayette Sesquicentennial 1848 — 1998 150th Anniversary

AROUND TOWN

Oct 17 **DEDICATION OF BICKERSTAFF MONUMENT –** 10 am. Diablo Food's parking lot by the redwood tree. Sponsored by the Lafayette Historical Society.

Oct 17 **HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP –** FREE. 1 – 3 pm. Orchard Nursery. Sponsored by the CCC Solid Waste Authority.

Oct 23-24 **PERFORMING ARTS GALA CELEBRATION –** A showcase of local professional and pre-professional performing artists, including Center Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, Diablo Ballet, and Town Hall Theater Co. For information call the Chamber: 284-7404.

Oct 25 **LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR RUN –** Join 2,000 runners and walkers on one of Northern California's most beautiful courses, at the same time benefitting Lafayette schools. This year's Run offers 10K, 5K, or 2 mile run/walk. For registration information call the Chamber: 284-7404.

Nov 3 **ELECTION DAY – Don't forget to Vote!**

Nov 20 **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST –** Join friends and neighbors for a non-denominational breakfast as we signal the start of the holiday season by giving thanks for all that we have. 7:30 am. Call the Chamber at 284-7404.

Dec 4 **HOSPICE TREE LIGHTING –** Join your fellow residents at the big oak tree on Lafayette Circle for a bright display of lights, songs, and holiday cheer as we remember those who are no longer with us. For information call Hospice 609-1830.

Dec 5 **TEDDY BEAR BRUNCH** – Kick off the holiday season at this festive "dress up" event for kids, parents, & grandparents. Features a kids' fashion show with our local "models", music, teddybears and other seasonal entertainment. Come to the Lafayette Park Hotel with your little ones and share a magical moment. For information call the Chamber: 284-7404.

Dec 5, 6 **LAFAYETTE WINTER FESTIVAL & BOUTIQUE –** Great food, hot mulled cider, arts & crafts, choral groups and a visit from Santa. FREE. 10 am – 4 pm, Lafayette Community Center.

City Parks & Recreation Programs - 284-2232

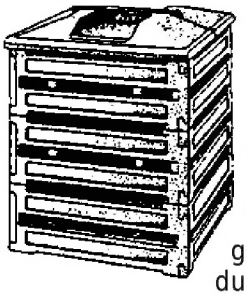
PARENTS' NIGHT OUT: Let us babysit your kids! 6:30 – 10:30pm on 9/12, 10/3, 11/7 & 12/12. Lafayette Community Center. Reservations required. Call 284-2232

ACE OF CLUBS: Music & dance club for High School students. Call for times.

HALLOWEEN FUN SHOW: Oct 31, 12:30 – 1:30 pm. Kindergarten & under. Lafayette Community Center.

Local Home Composting Program wins State "Trash Cutter" Award

In August, the local **Home Composting for Busy People Program** was one of 11 programs in the state to receive an award for Best Waste Prevention Strategy. The Program includes free home composting workshops at local nurseries, an in-home instructional video tape on composting, a telephone information line (906-1806) that provides technical assistance and arranges services, and garbage rate discounts for residents that have become certified composters through the program. It is a model that can help cities meet the legislative mandate to cut trash going to landfills in half by 2000, thus slowing the rapid growth of garbage dumps across our state. As a double dividend, home composting enhances the composter's own land by putting nutrients and minerals back into the soil.



You still have time to purchase the popular home compost bin at the reduced rate obtained for residents by the CCC Solid Waste Authority of $45 (tax and shipping to your door are included). Call 906-1806.

LAFAYETTE BASED NONPROFIT/SERVICE CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS:

If you wish to have your meeting times or notice of an upcoming event or project included in the January Vistas "Special Review of Lafayette Nonprofit/Service Clubs & Organizations," please send a short note with the information by Nov. 9th to:

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